

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. - 21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) A method for the treatment of a disease involving the activity of NIK in the pathogenesis of said disease comprising ~~administration of~~ administering to a subject in need:

(a) a therapeutically effective amount of cyc or a mutein, variant, fusion protein, functional derivative, circularly permuted derivative or fragment thereof, in a subject in need.;

(b) a therapeutically effective amount of an antibody capable of recognizing and binding cyc or a mutein, variant, fusion protein, functional derivative, circularly permuted derivative or fragment thereof;

(c) a therapeutically effective amount of DNA encoding cyc or a mutein, variant, fusion protein, functional derivative, circularly permuted derivative or fragment thereof;

(d) a therapeutically effective amount of DNA encoding the antisense of cyc or a mutein, variant, fusion protein, functional derivative, circularly permuted derivative or fragment thereof; or

(e) a therapeutically effective amount of a small molecule capable of modulating NIK-cyc interaction.

23. (Original) The method according to claim 22, wherein the fragment of cyc comprises 41MDD(SEQ ID NO:2).

24. (Original) The method according to claim 22, wherein the fragment of cyc comprises 44MPD(SEQ ID NO:17).

25. (Original) The method according to claim 22, wherein the fragment of cyc comprises ICDcyc(SEQ ID NO:1).

26. (Original) The method according to claim 22, wherein the fragment of cyc comprises residues 1-357(SEQ ID NO:20) of cyc.

27. (Original) The method according to claim 22, wherein the fragment of cyc comprises residues 1-341(SEQ ID NO:21) of cyc.

28. - 41. (Cancelled)

42. (Original) A method for the treatment of a disease involving the interaction between NIK and cyc in the pathogenesis of said disease comprising administration of a therapeutically effective amount of cyc or a mutein, variant, fusion protein, functional derivative, circularly permuted derivative or fragment thereof, in a subject in need.

43. (Original) A polypeptide fragment of cyc, comprising the NIK binding domain, or a mutein, variant, fusion protein, functional derivative, circularly permuted derivative or fragment thereof.

44. (Original) A polypeptide fragment of cyc according to claim 43, comprising 41MDD(SEQ ID NO:2).

45. (Original) A polypeptide fragment of cyc according to claim 43, comprising 44MPD(SEQ ID NO:17).

46. (Original) A polypeptide fragment of cyc according to claim 43, comprising ICDcyc(SEQ ID NO:1).

47. (Original) A polypeptide fragment of cyc according to claim 43, comprising residues 1-357(SEQ ID NO:20) of cyc.

48. (Original) A polypeptide fragment of cyc according to claim 43, comprising residues 1-341(SEQ ID NO:21) of cyc.

49. (Currently Amended) A DNA encoding the polypeptide fragment of cyc according to ~~anyone of claims 43 to 48~~ claim 43.

50. (Original) A vector comprising the DNA according to claim 49.

51. (Original) A cell comprising a vector according to claim 50.

52. (Currently Amended) A method for the production of a cyc polypeptide fragment of cyc, or a mutein, variant, fusion protein, functional derivative, circularly permuted derivative or fragment thereof, according to anyone of claims 43 to 48, comprising culturing a cell according to claim 51 and collecting the polypeptide produced.

53. (Currently Amended) An antibody, polyclonal or monoclonal, chimeric antibody, fully humanized antibody, anti-anti-Id antibody, intrabody or fragment thereof which specifically recognises and binds a polypeptide fragment of cyc according to ~~anyone of claims 43 to 48~~ claim 43.

54. A small molecule able to inhibit NIK-cyc interaction obtainable by screening of molecules prepared by combinatorial chemistry in a luciferase system.

55. - 74. (Cancelled)

75. (Original) A method for the treatment and/or prevention of a disease in which activation of NF- κ B is involved in the pathogenesis of the disease, comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of cyc, or a mutein, variant, fusion protein, functional derivative, circularly permuted derivative or fragment thereof to a subject in need.

76. (Original) A method according to claim 75 wherein the cyc fragment comprises 41MDD(SEQ ID NO:2).

77. (Original) A method according to claim 75 wherein the cyc fragment comprises 44MPD(SEQ ID NO:17).

78. (Original) A method according to claim 75 wherein the cyc fragment comprises residues 1-357(SEQ ID NO:20) of cyc.

79. (Original) A method according to claim 75 wherein the cyc fragment comprises residues 1-341(SEQ ID NO:21) of cyc.

80. (Original) A method of treatment and/or prevention of a disease in which NIK and cyc interaction is involved in the pathogenesis of said disease, comprising administering to a host in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a polypeptide comprising a fragment of cyc, comprising the NIK binding domain, or a mutein, variant,

fusion protein, functional derivative, circularly permuted derivative or fragment thereof.

81. (Original) A method according to claim 80, comprising 41MDD(SEQ ID NO:2).

82. (Original) A method according to claim 80, comprising 44MPD(SEQ ID NO:17).

83. (Original) A method according to claim 80, comprising ICDcyc(SEQ ID NO:1).

84. (Original) A method according to claim 80 wherein the cyc fragment comprises residues 1-357(SEQ ID NO:20) of cyc.

85. (Original) A method according to claim 80 wherein the cyc fragment comprises residues 1-341(SEQ ID NO:21) of cyc.

86. (Original) A method of treatment and/or prevention of a disease in which NF- κ B activation is involved in the pathology of the disease, comprising administering to a host in need thereof an effective amount of a small molecule according to claim 54.

87. (Original) A method according to claim 86, for the treatment of cancer.

88. (Original) A method according to claim 86, for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis,

inflammatory bowel disease, asthma, cardiac infarct, Alzheimer's disease, or atherosclerosis.

89. (Original) A method of treatment and/or prevention of a disease resulting from excessive immune responses, comprising administering to a host in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a polypeptide comprising a fragment of cyc, corresponding to the NIK binding domain, or a mutein, variant, fusion protein, functional derivative, circularly permuted derivative or fragment thereof.

90. (Original) A method according to claim 89, comprising 41MDD(SEQ ID NO:2).

91. (Original) A method according to claim 89, comprising 44MPD(SEQ ID NO:17).

92. (Original) A method according to claim 89, comprising ICDcyc(SEQ ID NO:1).

93. (Original) A method according to claim 89 wherein the cyc fragment comprises residues 1-357(SEQ ID NO:20) of cyc.

94. (Original) A method according to claim 89 wherein the cyc fragment comprises residues 1-341(SEQ ID NO:21) of cyc.

95. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~anyone of claims 89 to 94 to claim 89~~, for the treatment of

diseases selected from rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, inflammatory bowel disease, asthma, cardiac infarct, Alzheimer's disease, and atherosclerosis.

96. - 103. (Cancelled)